

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 BIB-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 220223

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: LITGAZ AND LEGION FEVER

REF: MOSCOW 13814

1. DURING MEETING WITH SOVIET MINISTER-COUNSELOR VASEV, SEPT. 3, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO DRAW VASEV'S ATTENTION TO A PARTICULARLY OBNOXIOUS ARTICLE BY K. MOSKVIN IN THE SEPT. 1 ISSUE OF LITERATURNAYA GAZETA, (REFTEL). HE POINTED OUT THAT THE ARTICLE INSINUATES THAT THE RECENT DEATHS AFTER AN AMERICAN LEGION CONVENTION IN PHILADELPHIA WERE DUE TO CHEMICAL OR BIOLOGICAL WARFARE EXPERIMENTATION BY THE CIA OR THE DEFENSE DEPT.. ARMITAGE DENOUNCED THESE CHARGES AS FALSE AND PARTICULARLY INAPPROPRIATE IN THE WAKE OF RECENT BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ON TECHNICAL ISSUES INVOLVED IN POSSIBLE CHEMICAL WEAPONS LIMITATIONS WHICH BOTH SIDES HAD DESCRIBED AS USEFUL. ARMITAGE ALSO STRESSED OUR VIEW THAT PROHIBITIONS OF BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION APPLY
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TO NEWLY DEVELOPED AS WELL AS EXISTING AGENTS. VASEV RE-

PLIED THAT HE WOULD RESERVE COMMENT UNTIL HE HAS READ THE
ARTICLE. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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